

No: 11/91

Ref: EW/G91/08/33

Category: 1c

Aircraft Type and Registration: Pitts S-2A, G-TIII

No & Type of Engines: 1 Lycoming AEIO-360-A1E piston engine

Year of Manufacture: 1979

Date & Time (UTC): 28 August 1991 at 1548 hrs

Location: Shoreham Airport, Sussex

Type of Flight: Private

Persons on Board: Crew - 1 Passengers - None

Injuries: Crew - None Passengers - N/A

Nature of Damage: Damage to the propeller and wheel spats

Commander's Licence: Commercial Pilot's Licence

Commander's Age: 30 years

Commander's Flying Experience: 2,300 hours (of which 380 were on type)

Information Source: Aircraft Accident Report Form submitted by the pilot

Runway 03 was in use and the Pitts, G-TIII, was positioned at right angles to the runway at the holding point, with a Cherokee, G-BIEY, on final approach for a touch-and-go landing. On request, the pilot of the Pitts informed ATC that he was in visual contact with the Cherokee and was told "...BEHIND THE LANDING CHEROKEE, LINE UP". However, as he read back only the words "LINE UP" and began to taxi forward, ATC immediately realised the error and re-transmitted "...BEHIND THE LANDING CHEROKEE, LINE UP". The pilot states that this occurred just as the increased engine power was becoming effective and, as he instinctively applied full brakes and closed the throttle, the aircraft tipped forward onto its nose.

The Cherokee was instructed to "GO-AROUND" and the pilot of the Pitts vacated his aircraft without further incident.

A recording of the RTF between Shoreham ATC and the aircraft illustrates the sequence of events which led to the accident.

(Punctuation has been added to the transcript to represent the audible pauses in the transmissions)

G-TIII: "India India, ready for immediate departure"
 ATC: "India India, there's one on short final, call you back shortly"
 G-BIEY: "Echo Yankee, finals, touch-and-go"
 ATC: "Echo Yankee, clear touch-and-go....."
 G-BIEY: "Clear touch-and-go, Echo Yankee"
 ATC: "Triple India, report visual with a Cherokee on final"
 G-TIII: "Visual"
 ATC: "Roger, behind the landing Cherokee, line up"

(There is no difference in the emphasis or the speed of this transmission from any of the foregoing)

G-TIII: "Line up, India India"

(At which point the aircraft began to move forward)

ATC: "India India, behind the landing Cherokee, line up"

(There is slight emphasis on the words underlined in this transmission).